

**ABSTRACT**

5 An encoder/decoder (codec) is configured to cause the coding/decoding algorithms used by the codec to dynamically adapt according to the available computational resources in response to actual complexity measurements performed at run-time. In a system in which multiple video codecs have to operate simultaneously in real-time, sharing the system's available resources, this invention provides a way to increase the number of simultaneous codecs that can co-exist. The principles of the invention are also applicable to an individual encoder and an individual decoder.